

# Operational Forces count on the Corps in Europe

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*“Power Projection, enabled by overseas presence will likely remain the fundamental strategic concept of our future force.”*

— Joint Vision 2010

Ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, 65,000 U.S. soldiers and 26,000 airmen are forward deployed in Europe promoting regional security and protecting American’s vital interests abroad.

Whether peacekeeping in Bosnia or training with foreign military in the Ukraine, they serve on the front lines of U.S. efforts to favorably shape the international environment and promote global security.

The United States Army, Europe (USAREUR) is the European Command’s primary land component — monitoring armed conflicts and potential flashpoints throughout an 80 nation area that spans three continents. Since 1990, USAREUR has been called upon for more than 100 deployments from Iraq — to the Balkans — to Zaire. Last year, 1,220 USAREUR soldiers participated in 15 Partnership for Peace exercises in 11 countries, with military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies and



Europe District Engineer Kristine Holman conducts environmental compliance inspections at Eagle Base in Tuzla, Bosnia. Holman was in Bosnia from July through October 1998. (Photo by Len Salazar)

24 partner nations. Foreign military interaction helps build cooperative relationships, deters aggression and serves as a role model for militaries in emerging democracies.

The Corps of Engineers is an integral part of the engineer team that supports this operational force. Engineering requirements abound — large and small, foreseen and unseen.

## When:

- Task Force Eagle needed value engineering to ensure the BASOPs contractor was providing the most economical foundation for temporary huts, they faxed engineer parameters to Europe District’s Design Division. Structural Engineer Gordon Simmons faxed back design sketches for stripe floatings of concrete that substantially cut costs.
- The Judge Advocate received damage claims from Hungarian property owners alleging that convoy traffic caused wall cracks in buildings along the roads, Engineers Jim Neubauer, Nurul Shameem and Gordon Simmons surveyed 79 buildings — from 300 year old churches to modern houses. Analysis of the soil, road conditions, and vibratory loads showed no detrimental impact from U.S. Forces.
- USAREUR’s site survey team went to the Ukraine to assess the suitability of the Yavoriv Training Area for a large U.S. combined exercise. Master Planner Paul Ramey and Mechanical Engineer Ragan Glandon assisted with surveys. While 7th Army Training Command analyzed operational suitability, the Corps focused on life support and force protection requirements. They provided a cost estimate for living and dining facilities, utilities, trash disposal, and range facilities.
- An earthquake in Incirlik and Adana, Turkey struck Air Force facilities forcing many to close for damage assessments and safety inspections. Four structural engineers from Europe, Seattle, Los Angeles and Tulsa Districts expeditiously inspected buildings so they could reopen as quickly as possible.
- A Bosnian waste water treatment plant

supporting 3,500 soldiers proved too small for the job, Environmental Project Manager Daphne Ross used the Corps' Rapid Response Contract to design and expand the plant's capacity while Engineer Ehsan Nawabi was the latest of many to volunteer for a 90-day rotation providing on the scene project management. The Rapid Response Contract provides full spectrum environmental support in Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary including spill containment, POL separators, wash rack monitoring, emergency response and clean up.

- Task Force Eagle needed to determine whether reliable commercial power was available to power base camps in Bosnia, Electrical Engineer Bill Wadsworth worked with the base support contractor Brown and Root and the Corps' Prime Power Battalion to design a distribution system and provisions for emergency back up generation to protect critical facilities. He provided technical assistance and translated contract documents for USAREUR's Power Procurement Office to support their negotiations with utility companies.
- Troop units needed bridge load capacity evaluated for contingency route reconnaissance in Macedonia, they e-mailed field measurements and digital photos to Structural Engineer Gordon Simmons, for evaluation.
- Physicians for Human Rights asked the State Department and the Defense



**Research Civil Engineer Dr. Gary Anderton, (pictured right) from the Waterways Experiment Station, was the on-site technical consultant for quality assurance on runway repairs at Tuzla Airbase in Bosnia. Anderton is pictured speaking with a Bosnian interpreter at the airfield job. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Gary Anderton)**

Missing Personnel Office for archeological assistance exhuming mass grave sites Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Saint Louis District arranged for Melissa Conner from the National Park Service in Nebraska to go to Bosnia for six months to assist with the project.

- The Air Force needed the optimum asphalt mix for runway repairs at Tuzla Airbase, Research Civil Engineer Dr. Gary Anderton, from the Waterways Experiment Station, was the on-site technical consultant for quality assurance on the paving materials.
- The 5th Signal Command needed secure, reliable communications in Bosnia, Project Engineer Rick Moreta managed structural upgrades to the Eagle Base communications tower.
- Base camp planning became essential to commanders trying to make prudent, economical facilities management decisions, Master Planner Tim Huwe developed the planning annex for the base camp facilities standards and helped establish a base camp planning board.
- Congress funded \$30 million to move soldiers in Bosnia out of tents and into wooden buildings before winter set in, the Jacksonville, Nashville and Omaha Districts sent TDY help to Bosnia to assist with construction management and quality assurance. They supported a full court press to rebuild the camps by Navy Seabees, Transatlantic Center's sustainment contractor, and Army Combat Heavy Engineers from the 130th Engineer Brigade, 1st Armored Division and 1st Cavalry.
- USAREUR needed full-time facility engineering support for Operation Joint Forge, Europe District created nine one-year positions for engineers who will go to Hungary and Bosnia. While the jobs are being filled, the Corps is providing TDY support.

"Missions are fast-paced and varied. We try to stay ahead of the requirements and anticipate needs by working as an integral part of the EUCOM and USAREUR teams," said Lt. Col. Al Bleakley.

As Deputy District Engineer, he attends USAREUR DCSENGR staff meetings and arranges for Corps support to the DCSLOG and DCSOPS. He is also a member of the EUCOM Engineer Contingency working group.

"District planners make regular coordination visits to write annexes to operations plans and to

participate in exercises,” Bleakley said. “Most recently, Operations Officer Scott Lowdermilk worked as the civil engineering planner for a NATO disaster response exercise. We are also planning for the upcoming V Corps Warfighter exercise to include tele-engineering support from the District and Corps Laboratories.”

“Europe District is forward deployed but we count on the rest of the Corps for specialized

expertise and extra muscle,” Bleakley said.

“In FY98, we deployed 44 Corps people to support Operational Forces throughout the EUCOM AOR — some of them several times. Thanks to the commitment of the entire Corps team, we have proven the Corps’ capabilities to respond wherever U.S. Forces deploy, with whatever expertise is needed.”



**The Corps of Engineers provided on-site technical consultation for runway repairs of Tuzla Airbase in Bosnia. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Gary Anderton)**



**Europe District Project Manager Randy Holman deployed as an environmental officer for Operation Joint Forge, Task Force Eagle, and Task Force Pershing from April to July 1998. He was responsible for the implementation and management of environmental programs for 18 base and hilltop camps. See story on Page 1. (Photo by Capt. Dan Mazzie)**